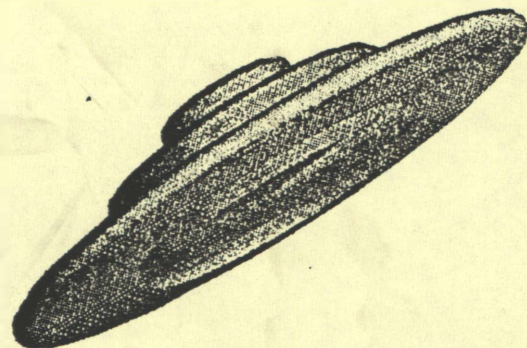
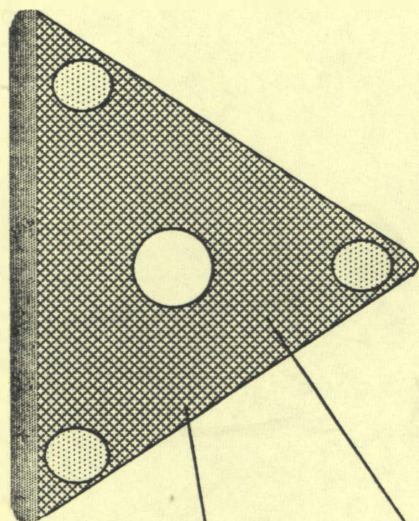
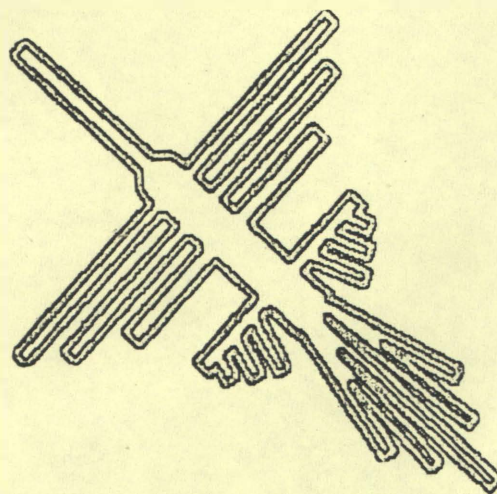
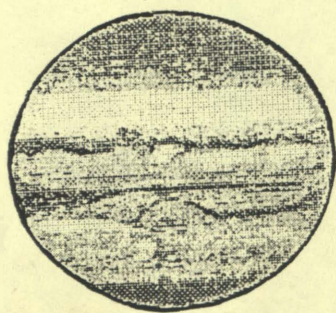


January/February

1999



OVNI



Journal of the Phenomenon Research Association

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OVNI

Journal of the Phenomenon Research Association

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January/February 1999

*We believe in the free exchange of
UFO information.*

Secretary

Claire Upton
3 Hayes Wood Road
Stanley Common, Derbys.
DE7 6GB
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THE MAN-MADE MILLENNIUM

Why all the fuss about the coming 'Millennium' year? We appear to be facing another phantom man-made festival based upon vaguely calculated figures on the birth date of Jesus Christ. It is generally accepted that the present calendar (introduced, 14 September 1752) is incorrect and that Jesus Christ was almost certainly born four years earlier than had previously been estimated, therefore the 'Millennium' year commenced at the end of 1996! We must also remember that this event only holds any significance with those referring to the Christian calendar, in any event nobody knows the actual month of the birth of Jesus. It is acknowledged that the Church changed the previous birth date of Jesus, to coincide with a mid-winter Pagan festival. A similar situation exists in South America, where the converted native population worship Christianity, while still holding onto their old beliefs. Crucifixes can be seen standing outside small towns and villages, but they are also adorned with skulls, bones and paintings of various types.

The Chinese will have no great interest in the 'Millennium', as they are probably entering the year of the 'Dog' and the Islamic Calendar shows that the current year is 1419, changing to 1420 on the 17th of April. So why all the fuss? The only connection with 'our subject' is the fact that the Aliens have told more than one contactee, that 'time is of our own making'.

Will we see the 'great revelation' in the coming year, I don't think so. The news of UFO incidents will continue to be mainly ignored by the press and sidelined by military authorities. Lord Hill-Norton was unable to receive a satisfactory reply to his tabled questions in the House of Lords in October 1997 on the subject of the UFO landing in Rendlesham Forest in 1980 (see OVNI May/June 98). This took place near the military bases of RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge and was the subject of Larry Warren's book 'Left At East Gate'. Lord Hill-Norton was basically told that the M.O.D. received no such reports and in any case it was a matter for the US authorities. If a person of such high standing as Lord Hill-Norton (a former British Military Supremo and NATO Commander), could be fobbed off in such a manner, then there is little chance of anyone learning much from the military authorities. To write to the M.O.D. and to expect a straightforward reply is a waste of time and the cost of a stamp!

The past year has seen some interesting scientific advances, many of which would have been pure science-fiction a few years ago. It is interesting to note that several of the 'ridiculous' stories previously related by abductees, no longer seem quite so outlandish. We have read of a tiny goat being born in an artificial womb, cushioned in fluid and nurtured through tubes (doesn't that have a familiar ring?) 'Artificial Wombs In Ten Years' screamed the headline in the Daily Mail. But while some experts hailed it as a major breakthrough, others warned of horrific scenarios including 'farming' babies for experiments! (Even more familiar!)

Next, 'The Times' (5 October) told of a cybernetics professor who has been fitted with a computer implant. The chip had been implanted in his right arm, allowing him to switch on lights automatically. The next step is to have an implant that would allow him to develop telepathic communications, which may eventually allow people to communicate without being in contact with each other. (It's all 'old hat' to the Greys!).

I read recently, that a scientist had managed to grow nerve fibres on a computer chip, with a view to this being implanted in a brain at some future stage. Whatever is next...Cloned Humans? Oh' I forgot...that is already in progress.....Happy New Year to all our readers.

NEW MARS LANDER-EXPLORER LAUNCHED

A Mars lander craft, equipped with an arm and shovel, blasted off from Cape Canaveral on Sunday 3rd January 99. It is on a quest to uncover frozen water near the planet's South Pole.

NASA's Mars Polar Lander soared aboard a Boeing rocket at exactly 3.21 p.m. The rainy weather that launch managers had feared, stayed away, allowing NASA to meet the instantaneous launch window, despite an overcast sky.

The Polar Lander is bound for the frosty fringes of Mar's south polar cap. It's due to arrive in December, when it is late spring on Mars and the sun never sets. It will be virgin territory : No spacecraft has ever ventured so far south on Mars. As a result, scientists' expectations are high. Their goal is to find water-ice in the Martian soil. Where there is water, NASA's top space scientist say **there could be life!**

"You've got to follow the water if you're looking for life," said Ed Weiler, head of NASA's space science division. "We have a lot of reason to believe there's water on Mars in the form of ice," he added. "But until you actually land there and find it and measure it, you can't say for sure. That's one thing I think this mission will demonstrate."

The Polar Lander - 3 1/2 feet tall and 12 feet wide - has three legs as well as a 6 1/2 foot robot arm with a scoop on the end to scrape beneath the Martian surface. The collected dirt will be heated, allowing any water that's present to vaporize and be detected by laser. The lander craft carries no life-detection equipment. The only real way to confirm life on Mars. Weiler says, is to fetch rocks and soil.

NASA plans to launch a soil-return mission in 2005; the samples would reach the Earth in 2008. The Polar Lander is also equipped with a pair of probes that will peel away minutes before touchdown and slam into the Martian surface at 400 mph to 500 mph, some 60 miles from the lander craft.

Like the lander, the twin probes will also hunt for water but at a much greater depth: They could penetrate as deep as 3 feet. The question is whether they will survive the impact and radio back data. It's a high risk experiment called Deep Space 2 that's part of NASA's New Millennium programme to test new technologies for future missions.

The Polar Lander is a companion to NASA's Mars Climate Orbiter launched last month. The two missions cost \$327 million and Deep Space 2 another \$29 million.

Source: Associated Press and the cutting sent in by Eugene Bauer of Dover Plains, New York. U.S.A.

RETIRED NURSE PHOTOGRAPHS UFO IN TOOWONG, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

On November 6th 1998, retired nurse Madeleine Patterson, 63, had a sudden urge to go outdoors and snap a photograph. Grabbing her camera, she stepped out onto the backstairs of her home in Toowong, Queensland, Australia and snapped the shutter.

When the film was developed, she found the image of a silver disc UFO in the photograph.

"I didn't see the UFO at all," Mrs. Patterson said, "What I had was a feeling there might be something strange to photograph. It's something like when people get a feeling there's going to be a storm."

Retired nurse Mrs. Patterson, who is also a naturopath and nutritionist, has added the photograph to her growing collection of cross formations and 'angels'. It includes six photographs of UFO's.

Nurse Patterson added: "These things are there for everyone to see. All my life I've been interested in things that are beyond physical and material spheres and I watch these things closely."

Mrs Patterson also believes that ET's exist. She said "Otherwise we'd be like cave people, thinking we are the only people in the Universe."

Source Australia's Sunday Mail 3 January 99, "The Truth Is Out There, So Are The UFO's" by Elissa Lawrence. Article sent in by Diane Harrison: UFO Roundup Vol 4 No.1. Jan 5 1999. Editor: Joseph Trainor

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

- PRA member Bernadette Pattison recently wrote us from her home in Toogoolawah, Queensland, Australia. The letter makes interesting reading, as apart from the mention of UFO activity, Bernadette casually mentions the local wildlife. Unlike the odd Hedgehog or Fox seen here in the U.K. she is faced with poisonous red-backed spiders and highly dangerous Taipan snakes! The edited letter has been reproduced for your interest :

15/12/98

Toogoolawah

I suppose you were aware of all the excitement in this part of the world about the meteor showers in November. We duly rose at 2am and trudged up the paddock well away from the 4 street lights that comprise our small settlement. I suppose we saw about 50 meteors in an hour that we were there. Certainly not the hundreds promised by the astronomers. They were mostly very very fleeting and if you blinked you missed them. There were a few that lit a big arc across the sky.

One night we were gazing at a particular spot for quite some time trying to sort out constellations and using certain stars for reference points when one of these stars just slowly moved away. You could say it meandered, such was it's pace and direction. Then it disappeared. We were astounded as we knew it had been in that spot for at least 5 minutes.

The same night I saw 2 sudden metallic looking flashes, one after the other. I yelled at my husband to look in that area and there were the flashes again, another 2, just the same, a long long way away.

I have just finished reading Cosmic Top Secret by Jon King, and was delighted to see that he gave you an honourable mention for your work on flying triangles.

I was very interested in something Arthur C. Clarke said in an interview recently. When asked about his interest in UFOs he replied that he was no longer interested in UFOs, his interest now was in alien abduction.

I have been doing a small survey among people I know and people I meet and have found that about 90% of those I queried have had some sort of UFO experience. Some people have had remarkable experiences. One couple about 20 years ago were in a small boat on Moreton Bay fishing at night when a huge deep yellow ball appeared in the sky a few hundred feet from them. The ball seemed to pulsate and gave off enough light to ^{light} the bay much more than moonlight would. They were terrified and just sat there afraid to move. The ball stayed there for some time, they said they thought it was hours. I asked them what happened to it and they said they didn't know, they thought it disappeared. Both people seemed to be very frightened at the memory of the experience.

We have an eastern taipan living under our kitchen steps. He is only small, about 3 feet long but a nuisance. Earlier this year we killed an 8 foot taipan in the same place. You can sort of control them in the yard but when they come into the house I get a bit annoyed. I never look down, so I have frequently walked on them but so far have been lucky. If you suddenly don't hear from me again you will know the Joe Blakes have got me. There was a red-back spider on my foot this morning when I pulled it out of my gum-boot. Lucky I was wearing socks. Still I have been bitten by a red-back so I am probably immune.

I enjoyed the last edition of the OVNI as usual and it was so nice to see a photo of you in it. It's a good idea I think to put your photo in occasionally for new members to see the human face of the guiding force of the journal.

A very psychic person told me that he thinks that in 2000 we will know the answer to all our questions.

Here's hoping it's a good one!

Kind regards,

Bernadette

HUGE FLYING TRIANGLE SEEN NEXT TO THE M1 MOTORWAY!

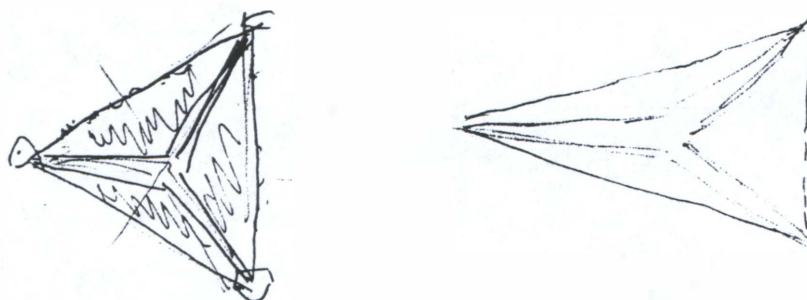
A FT sighting was reported by a PRA associate, as he sped down the M1 on the night of 22nd November 1998. 'Paul' rang a PRA member on his mobile phone, to report that together with many other motorists, at 2005hrs. he had observed a huge Flying Triangle hovering close to the M1 Motorway, about a quarter of a mile north of the M1 -M18 motorway junction (Jct.32).

The witness saw a large black Flying Triangle hovering low down, just off the motorway. The FT was described as being huge, with an array of numerous lights and it appeared to be made up of a girder-like structure. The witness was unable to stop, but noticed that many other drivers had pulled up on the 'hard shoulder' (emergency only lane), to look at the FT craft.

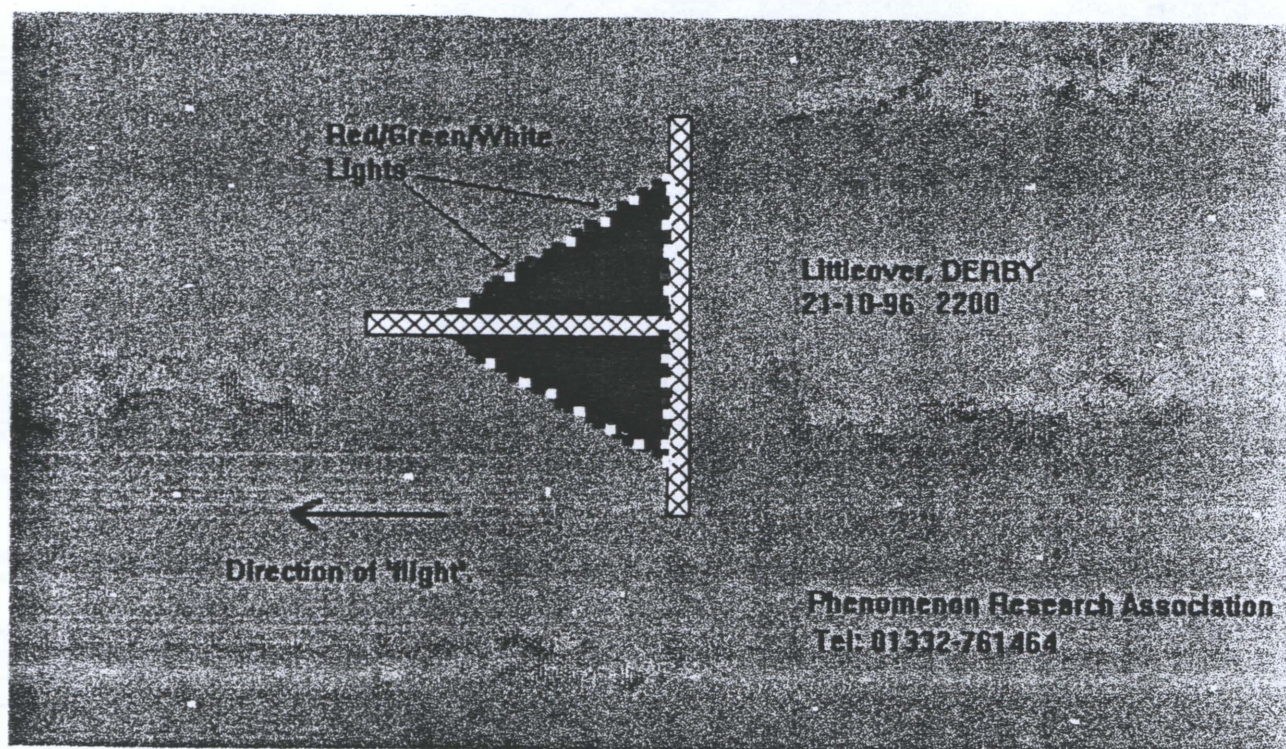
We received a report from another driver, later the same evening. He stated that as he came off the M1, at about 2005hrs. heading, towards the Sheffield area, he heard a roaring sound high in the sky. He said that he did not believe the sound came from an aircraft.

Researcher Tim Matthews believes that the craft could have been a conventional aircraft. However it is difficult to accept that a modern day aircraft of any type (excluding large lift helicopters) would be flying around with an open girder structure. The last time that happened must have been about 1911, as by 1914 even the rudimentary aircraft of the period had a thin fabric covered fuselage.

A sketch of the M1, FT craft is shown below.



Girder structures attached to FT craft have frequently been reported, although generally they appear to be part of the underside of the craft (On Feb.8th 1996 three Manchester police officers on night duty, saw an FT "with some sort of girder structure underneath."). An exception was the girder structured Flying Triangle reported by a young witness over Littleover, on the night of the 22nd October 1996. *See drawing below.*

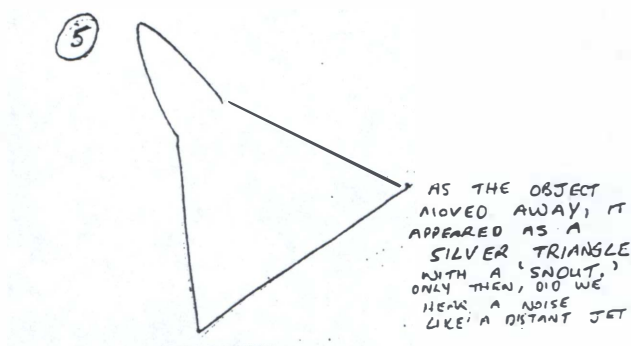
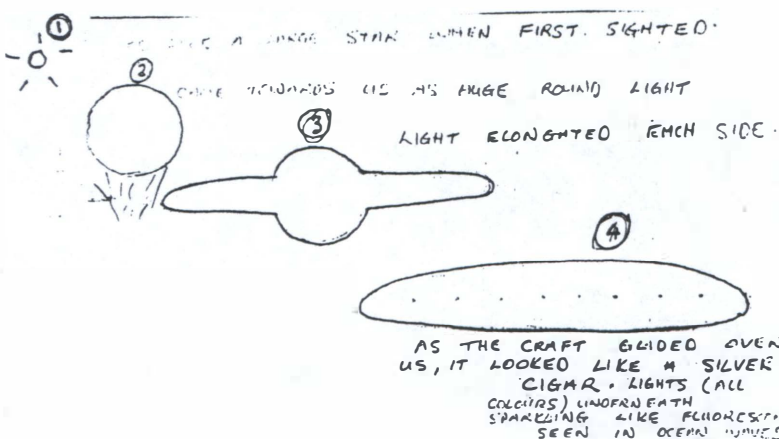


A SELECTION OF THE LATEST 'FLYING TRIANGLE' REPORTS

30 October 98. 10.25pm

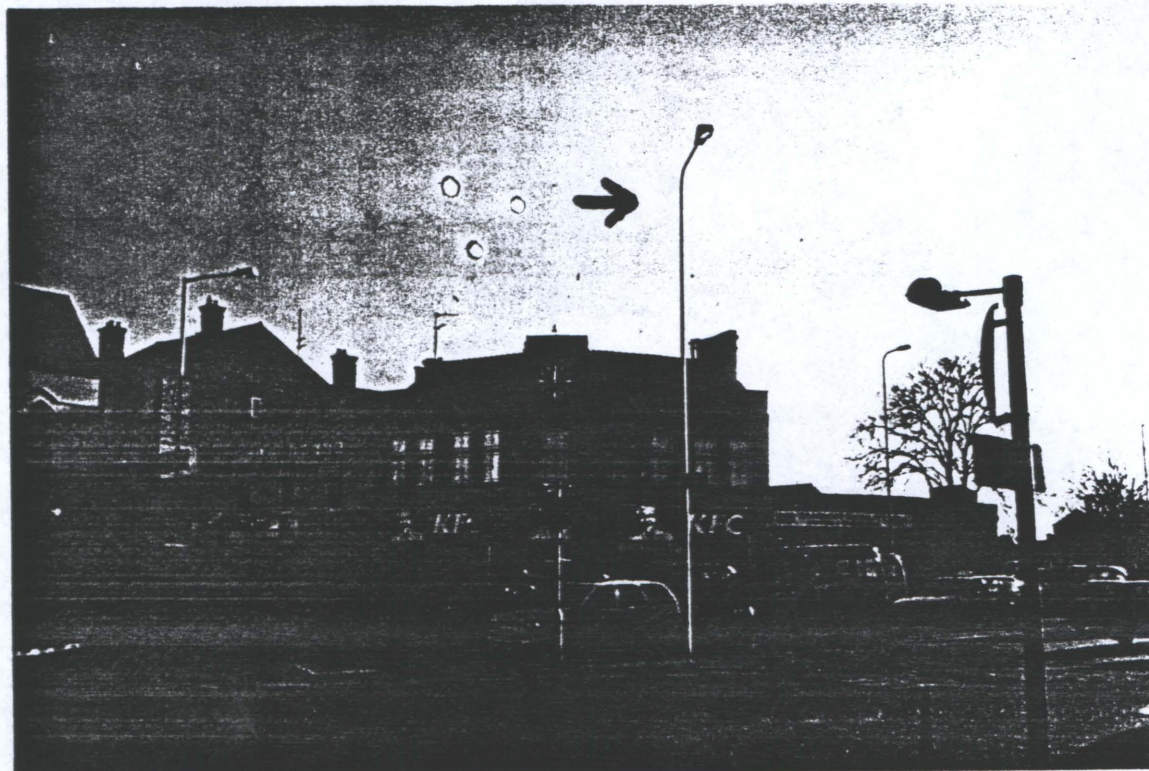
PRA member Melanie Cunningham and her friend Mrs. Helen Spencer-Smith were walking in Spencer Road, Belper, Derbyshire, when their attention was attracted to what appeared to be a large yellowy star. The star came towards them from the South East. At first it seemed to have a vapour-like trail extending from it. As it came closer the shape changed to show elongation's on either side, then as it glided overhead "it looked like a silver cigar." It had lights "of all colours underneath it, sparkling like the fluorescent light seen from ocean waves."

Then as the object moved away towards the North West, it appeared as a silver triangle, with "a snout" (see drawing.) A faint jet noise was heard, but the witnesses were uncertain as to whether this came from the FT or from a distant aircraft. The outline of the craft was sharply defined and the speed was estimated to be about 20-30 mph. As it went out of sight, "it glided away silently over the rooftops, as a silver triangle."



6 November 98. 5.15 pm.

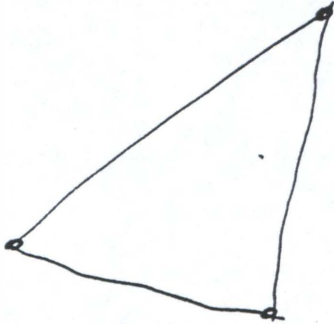
This report has been sent to us by the well known researcher and psychic, Peter Gregory. It concerns a FT sighting by Matthew Gregory. "I was sitting on a seat at Skegness bus station, when I noticed three large white lights in a triangular shape moving slowly across the sky from left to right" (see photo). "The FT appeared to be as large as a house, made no sound and moved in the direction of Wainfleet, on the coast. I watched it for about 30 seconds.



FT Report Continued:

16 November 98. 7.20 pm.

This report comes to us from Richard Powell of Ludlow, Shropshire: "It was about 7.20 pm and my sister called me and my mum outside. She said that she had seen something strange fly over our house." "We went outside and looked East and my mum, my sister and two friends and I saw this triangular shaped object low down in the sky." "It seemed to be at least 800 metres away and was quite large." "The object had one red light at each corner but no light in the centre. It was stationary in the sky and no sound came from it. We watched it for about a minute and then it descended slowly and then vanished. During our observation, nothing obscured our view of it. Although it was dark outside, the lights showed up and the outline of the object could just be seen, it was distinctly triangular. It appeared in the West and disappeared to the East."



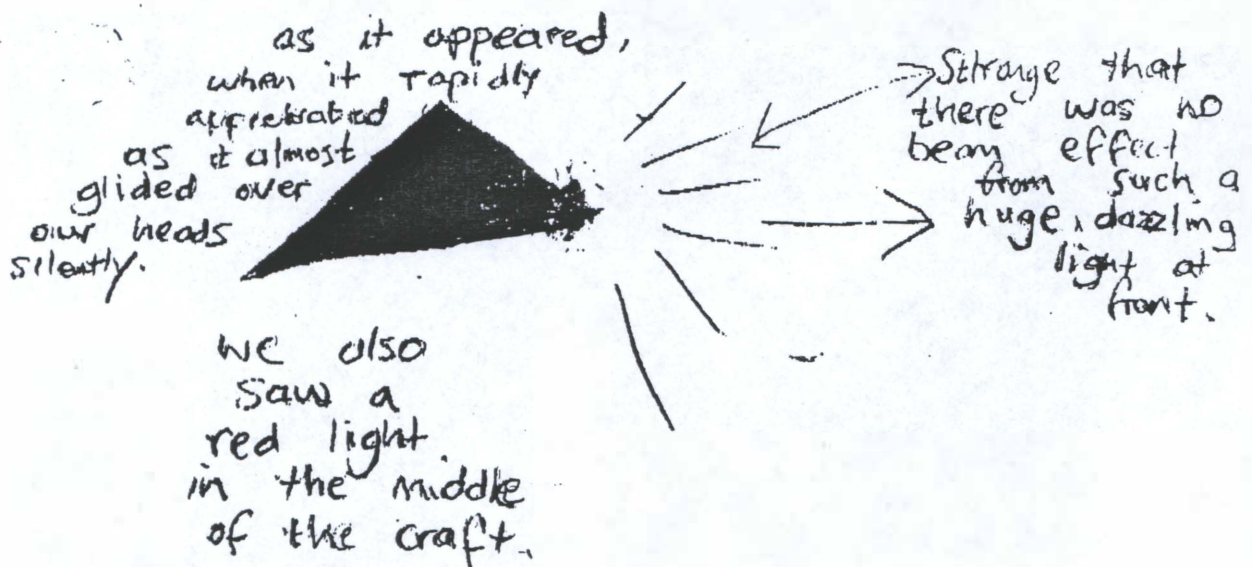
IT WAS AN ISOSCELES
TRIANGLE WITH 1 RED LIGHT
AT EACH CORNER.

ALTHOUGH DARK THE SIDES
OF THE OBJECT COULD JUST
BE SEEN.

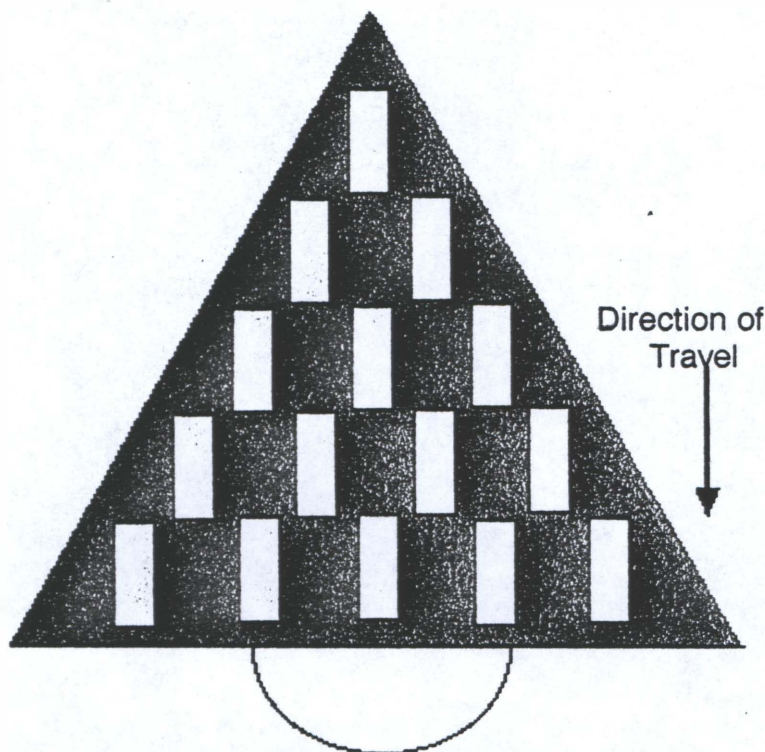
13 January 99. 10.50 pm.

The very latest report from Belper, Derbyshire, where Melanie Cunningham and Helen Spencer-Smith have seen yet another FT. The two witnesses were in a car travelling on the A6 returning to Belper and adjacent to the 'Safeway' roundabout. They saw what appeared to be a bright star in the sky, then as the light approached, they made out the shape of a black triangular craft with a huge light on the front of it. The two "amazed" witnesses stated the the FT was clearly defined, made no sound as it "glided over our heads silently." It was moving slowly at a speed of about 35 mph. It appeared in the North West and "glided away" towards the South East. "It had an extremely large very bright front light and made no sound as it moved towards us." It seems that the FT had a red light at each corner, as well as the bright white light in the nose. Helen believes that she saw the craft as an "upright triangle" as it passed over. (Pyramid shape?).

(This is an initial report and more details are expected later. O.F.)



Sightings of Triangles reported to the Norfolk UFO Society



Winter, 1982 (appx)
evening
Between Holt and Fakenham, Norfolk
Triangle.

Witness, a farmer, landowner and holder of a Private Pilots Licence. Travelling on main road, when he saw a bright light over to his left. Thought it was a farmer loading sugarbeet, and was impressed by the light he was loading with. He turned off to have a look at the light, and as he drew near noticed that the light was coming from an object in the sky. He got out of his car, and the object rose up sharply, and became stationary at a height, still visible as a small dot of light. After 5-10 minutes, it descended again, slowly, coming to a stop almost above him. He saw that it was a massive triangle, about the size of a football field, with 15 rectangular lights beneath it, and a big rounded light on the front (the flat side - it travelled flat side first). It had been silent up to then, but there was now a noise like a huge dynamo, and he felt a terrific 'down-force' from it, making his car rock violently, and causing the tree under which he was to shed dead leaves, twigs and other debris. The noise and 'force' stopped, and witness began to walk under it to get a closer look. After about 100 yards, he was just about under the middle of it. Object then moved off towards the RAF West Raynham. Next day the witness returned to the scene, and found all the debris under the tree, including branches as thick as his arm.

July, 1975 (Saturday)

2100hrs

Cley, Norfolk.

TRIANGLE

Two witnesses, one now deceased, heard a humming noise. Went outside house, and saw a dark metallic silver triangle, hovering, and performing strange aerial manoeuvres over the marshes. It had a white light in the centre, and red lights at each corner. After less than 5 minutes, craft sped off towards Blakeney Point. (West to North-west) It left behind an "electric-ozone" type smell. Witnesses had the feeling that the craft knew that they were observing it. After it went, everything appeared to be very calm, and they had a feeling of 'loss'.

STRANGE BUT TRUE ?

(One of the many cuttings sent in by our readers)

2

NATIONAL NEWS

Space alien doll found in Nairobi West?

KIDS playing at an Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) landing site just west of Nairobi, made the bizarre find, claimed a recent report in the *Weekly World News*.

The two-foot high doll has stunned scientists who say that unlike earth dolls, the 22-inch toy:

- Doesn't have a mouth but does have an extra eye in the middle of its forehead.

- Appears to be wearing a space suit.

- Has sphere-like appendages at the ends of its arms and legs.

- Is made of a mysterious metal never before seen on earth.

- Wets its pants like clockwork every 72 hours. The scrupy, blue urine that flows from a pair of octagonal holes in its back smells like ammonia and is highly corrosive.

- Honks and snorts when its face is rubbed.

- Maintains a constant temperature of 125 degrees.

- Makes the sound "nu-lee, nu-lee" when it's turned over, and

- Weighs 300 pounds.

Physicist Michael Dillon was quoted as telling reporters that "this is a phenomenal find, absolutely amazing."

"There is no doubt in my mind that its origins are extra-terrestrial."

Staff Reporter

"It's also safe to assume that the creatures who left it here, made it in their own image, which means we know what they look like."

"Our analysis and investigations are preliminary so that doll still presents more questions than it answers. But there is obviously a great deal we can learn from it", said Dr Dillon.

He went on: "In the months to come, our knowledge and understanding of extraterrestrials should increase dramatically."

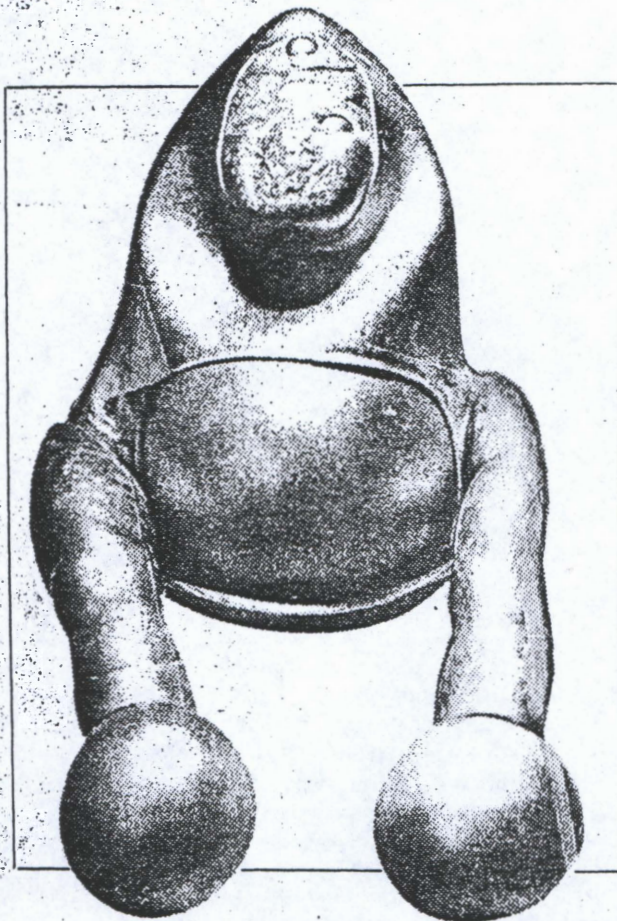
Three school children are said to have found the strange doll while playing near their home in Nairobi West.

Police are said to have been alerted by Dr Dillon, according to *Weekly World News*. Dr Dillon arrived with a team of 17 assistants and took the doll back to his laboratory for testing.

Police headquarters could not immediately confirm or deny the report yesterday.

A duty officer at Police Headquarters said there was nothing in their records to show the matter was reported to the police.

According to *Weekly World News*, there were several UFO sightings in the area a few days before the doll was discovered.



INCREDIBLE photo of space alien doll. Note the third eye on its forehead.

I don't know what you will make of this. My daughter sent it to me from Nairobi I think in 1989.

The original cutting of which this is a copy looks very real.*

There have been many reported UFO sightings in Kenya and especially in the late eighties.

* I mean the toy looks real.

AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL COIN FOUND IN GUATEMALA
A contribution from Guatemala by Dr. Oscar Rafael Padilla Lara.

Guatemala C.A.

Although I don't remember the exact date, I believe it was during the year 1976, possibly after the great earthquake which shook this country on the 4th of February of that year in Guatemala; during which decade the government had instituted several sports and other activities for young people, among them playing chess in public playgrounds, such as the Hipodrome on the North side of town and within the installations at the La Aurora Zoo, where there were kiosks with tables and benches where people could eat their lunch and rest, and at these places people could play this very intellectual game. I usually went to these places at least to watch the games. Mr. Ernesto Britz Jonas, who lived on 3rd Street 50-80, Zone 11, Colonia Molino de Las Flores, Guatemala, was the instructor. We became friends and besides chatting about intellectual activities such as chess, I told him that among my hobbies was that of stamp collecting and numismatics and investigation of UFO phenomenon.

During one of our conversations Mr. Britz told me that he also had the hobby of numismatics and that once during an auction he had bought a handful of coins at a low price, and although he would have liked to choose what he needed and didn't have, but due to the low price asked, he bought them all. Among these coins there was one, which is the subject of this paper and which he called "PLANET COIN".

This coin which he found among what he bought is unique and very special. No collectionist was able to identify it, so he took it to the Smithsonian Institute of Washington, U.S.A. where he had it examined and with a Carbon 14 date detection test, he was told that to 1973, date on which he took it, he had to add 8,757 years, giving it 10,730 years of age.

Therefore, it is considered to be an "EXTRATERRESTRIAL COIN", which his discoveror and owner in Guatemala, C.A., believes to represent life in another positive world.

To keep this coin safe and away from any danger, he deposited it at the Banco de Occidente which is the oldest bank of Guatemala, and it possibly is still there, to date; due to this gentleman's age at the time I met him, by now he must have passed away, this was several years ago. He was of Jewish origin and always said that: GUATEMALA WAS A BLESSED LAND FOR HIM AND THAT THE COIN DID NOT BELONG TO ANY COUNTRY AND HAD NO BOUNDARIES, IT WAS UNIVERSAL AND CELESTIAL.

For this reason I give tribute to this dignified nationalized Guatemalan, who had the kindness of inviting me to his home to see the coin and needless to say, for what this object means for the investigation of UFO phenomenon.

On this coin you can see on one side something which looks like a map of an unknown place and on the other side a human being, but it has a tail, which looks like a monkey's.

I held this coin in my hands and examined it with a magnifying glass and found no description of place, identification of any country or any value.

Dr. Oscar Rafael Padilla Lara

Dr. Padilla Lara is a Lawyer and Notary Public in Guatemala City. He is a regular contributor to the 'OVNI' and Flying Saucer Review. He is also a member of APRO and MUFON (U.S.A.) and an Honorary Member of the Spanish Scientific Society of Parapsychology and Ufology (Seville). He is a member of the 'Ancient Astronaut Society' Illinois U.S.A. among many others.



The Evening Sky

Total Eclipse of the Sun: August 11th 1999

On Wednesday August 11th 1999, a total eclipse of the Sun will be visible from within a narrow corridor which crosses nearly half of the northern hemisphere, moving east. The path of the Moon's central shadow, called the 'umbra' begins in the north Atlantic Ocean, crosses central Europe, the Middle East and south Asia where it ends at sunset over the Bay of Bengal. A partial eclipse of the Sun will be seen within the much broader path of the Moon's wider shadow, called the 'penumbra', which includes northwestern America, all of Europe, north Africa, northern and western Asia.

The last total solar eclipse of the second millennium begins at 10:30:57 British Summer Time (BST). The eclipse will be visible from the North Atlantic Ocean, about 400 miles northeast of New York, USA where the Moon's shadow first touches the Earth. The maximum duration of the eclipse at that time will be a mere 47 seconds and the shadow cast by the Moon onto the ocean's surface will be 30 miles in diameter. As the Moon's shadow sweeps across the North Atlantic Ocean, no major land mass occurs for the first forty minutes.

The Moon's shadow reaches the Isles of Scilly at 11:10 am. The duration of the eclipse is now two minutes three seconds and the diameter of the shadow has expanded to 64 miles. The shadow pursues an eastern track with a ground speed of 0.56 miles per second (2016 miles an hour).

One minute later, at 11:11 am, the shadow arrives along the shores of the Cornwall peninsula. In the following four minutes, the Moon's shadow will skirt the southwestern tip of England giving millions of observers a brief taste of totality. Plymouth, the largest city in the path of totality, is north of the shadow's centre line and observers in Plymouth will witness a total eclipse lasting one minute 39 seconds. London misses the total phase but experiences a partial eclipse with a maximum

of 96 per cent of the Sun's disc covered by the Moon.

By 11:16 am the Moon's shadow leaves England and quickly crosses the English Channel. The Channel Islands of Guernsey and Jersey lie just south of the path of totality and witness a partial eclipse of 99 per cent. Alderney, to the north, is deep within the path and enjoys over one minute 30 seconds of totality. The southern edge of the shadow reaches the Normandy coast, France, just as the northern edge of the shadow leaves England at 11:16 am.

The Moon's shadow travels east, passing through central Europe, the Middle East and south Asia, finally departing the Earth at 1:36 pm, not to return until the next millennium. Over the course of three hours and seven minutes, the Moon's shadow will have travelled along a path approximately 8700 miles long and covering 0.2 per cent of the Earth's surface area.

The last total eclipse of the Sun visible from the UK mainland occurred shortly after sunrise on June 29th 1927. The path of totality crossed the coast of Cardigan Bay to the west of Portmadog, passed east of Colwyn Bay and out over the Irish Sea before hitting the Lancashire coast at Southport. The shadow moved northeast crossing Settle, Richmond, Darlington and West Hartlepool, departing these shores over the North Sea heading for Scandinavia and Siberia. The next total eclipse of the Sun visible from the UK mainland will occur on September 23rd 2090. The path of totality again passes over Cornwall, Devon and the south coast of England. A total eclipse of the Sun was visible from the very northern-most part of the Shetland Islands on June 30th 1954.

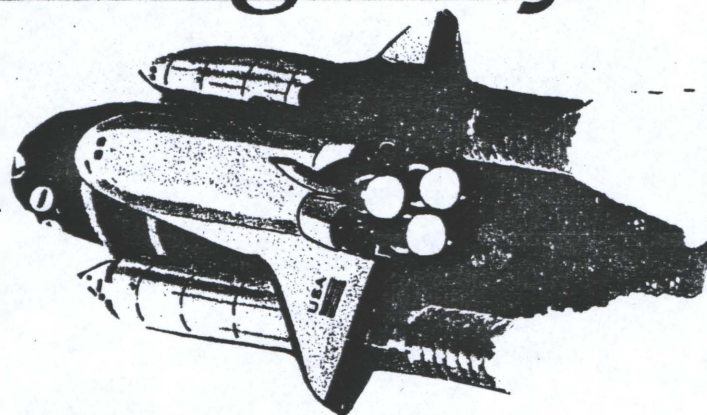
Do not miss your 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to witness this rare event from these shores. Get your skates on and head for southwestern Cornwall, south Devon or Alderney. The experience of witnessing a total eclipse of the Sun, first hand, will stay with you forever.

Enjoy Your Evening Sky!

The Evening Sky

January 1999

Look up and away from the world of winter into the darkness beyond and your eyes will be drawn to a panorama of star constellations and bright planets.



In the deepening dusk as 1999 opens, flaming Venus can be seen setting in the southwest. Far to Venus's upper left, Jupiter glows and after another large span of sky to the left of Jupiter is the much dimmer planet, Saturn. We must wait until around midnight to see the fourth planet, Mars. During the first week of January we can glimpse one more faraway world: Mercury, rising low in the southeast during morning twilight.

The Moon is Full on January 2nd and Full again on January 31st. The Earth is closest to the Sun (perihelion) at 91.8 million miles distance on January 3rd.

Politicians allocate funds to space projects and often for dubious reasons. The International Space Station (ISS) now being assembled in Earth orbit is just such a project which I can only describe as a £40 billion flying fiasco.

Little science and certainly no astronomy will be undertaken on board the ISS for many years. Manufacturing (precision ball-bearings, delicate drugs, ultrapure crystals, etc.) will be made better on terra firma. The money for this 'Big Project' has been stolen from other more worthwhile projects: the Superconducting Super Collider; Life-sciences, Micro-gravity research etc. In a couple of years time, when the media critically examines the ISS it will be the first to condemn this utter waste of public money.

Where does the Solar System end? The traditional answer has been at the orbit of Pluto. We now know the Sun's family extends much further. Beyond Pluto lie some 200 million objects each a few miles in diameter in a region of space known as the Kuiper Belt. Beyond the Kuiper belt lies the Oort Cloud containing feebly bound icy planetesimals at a vast distance of one light year from the Sun. Only there, does interstellar space truly begin.

The modern journey of discovery began in the 1960's when spacecraft visited other worlds. Today, humankind are capable of doing what our ancestors only dreamed of doing: travelling to the stars.

My name is archived on-board a spacecraft (Pathfinder) sitting on the surface of the planet Mars. My signature is archived on-board a spacecraft (Cassini) heading for the distant planet Saturn. The likelihood of life existing on at least three other worlds in our Solar System is a real possibility. The search for intelligent life in more distant galactic regions is well underway with the discovery of several cosmic beacons. Countless, convincingly credible UFO sightings have been reported in recent decades.

We are all part of the greatest adventure in the history of humankind. We all share in the journey which will eventually carry us beyond this world and onto other worlds and other civilisations.

Enjoy Your Evening Sky!

PRESS RELEASE FROM NICK REDFERN, 2 DECEMBER 1998.

On 19 November 1998, Lord Hill-Norton inquired how many files the Ministry of Defence (as opposed to the Public Record Office) currently held that related to the UFO issue.

In his response, Lord Gilbert advised Hill-Norton that 76 files were held by the MoD and that they dated from 1985 to the present day. Gilbert further revealed that all of those files originated with the Secretariat of the Air Staff - the office that was the former home to both Nick Pope and Kerry Philpott - and that they dealt with the following issues: 'policy'; 'correspondence'; 'alleged sightings'; 'Parliamentary business'; 'media issues'; and 'answerphone messages'.

Of course, this is precisely the sort of material that one would expect to see on file with the Secretariat of the Air Staff. But what of the additional files that certainly exist and that originate with, for example, DI55 and its associated offices within the Defence Intelligence Staff - not to mention RAF Rudloe Manor and the Provost and Security Services?

For his part, Gilbert conceded that 'some files' on UFOs may be held by other MoD 'divisions or establishments'; however, the MoD's truly astonishing stance as of November 1998 is that absolutely none of this additional material can be identified or provided. Why not? A lack of funds! In other words, it's the same old story: Sec(AS)2a's material is ok for discussion. But anything else? Sorry, no can do. And the British Government doesn't have a covert agenda? Don't make me laugh...

TALE ENDERS

ALL UFO GROUPS IN THE U.K. AND EUROPEAN MAINLAND ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN "PROJECT FT". At present there are 33 UFO groups assisting in this 'Flying Triangle' research and the database (Director: Victor J.Kean) has over 7,000 FT sighting reports (Aug. 1942 - to the present day). See: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Tspurrier/ufosight.htm>. All contributing groups will receive a report of the project's findings. **Send your data to: Tony Spurrier, 18 Argyle Road, Edmonton, London. N18 2PP, or E-Mail Victor J.Kean: 100545.1505@Compuserve.com**

OUR UNSUNG HEROES rarely get a mention. They are the PRA members who 'do their bit' and often more, in their supporting role of investigators for the group. We were recently contacted by a 'man of mystery' (name withheld) who lives near Whitby, Cleveland. He claimed to have a number of 'Alien artifacts', including a gold disc with strange hieroglyphics. These strange signs could only be seen using a strong magnifying glass and were claimed to be of outstanding importance. A big PRA 'Thank You' goes to member Felicity Jones and her husband Peter who volunteered to visit the mysterious person during the Christmas break (although it involved a round trip of close to a hundred miles). Imagine their disappointment (and ours) when the artifacts turned out to be just ordinary stones and part of an old metal badge.....*But it could have been something worthwhile!*

FLYING TRIANGLE OVER BAGHDAD? News reporters sitting out the air raids on Baghdad were startled to see a triangular formation of lights pass slowly over the city in the early hours of 17th December 98. The lights passed over the hotel between 0230/0231 hrs, according to the CNN reporter. Several photographs were taken by reporters, although strangely, the Baghdad anti-aircraft guns did not appear to fire at the lights? The photo's can be seen on the 'Net': <http://www.cbjd.net/orbit/graphics/baghdad.html>

ALIEN & UFO EXHIBITION has opened in Blackpool, 64/66 Promenade. Open seven days a week. Adults £5.95: Children £3.50. "It is a unique exhibition and offers a combination of truth, fact fiction and spirituality. It contains stunning exhibits include the Roswell crash scene." Tel: 01253 297522.

COFFIN SHAPED UFO seen over Curbar, Derbys. between 0200 - 0300 hrs. in the early hours of the 21st December 98 by Mrs Forder. "It was self illuminating and appeared to be over the Chatsworth/Chesterfield area." The object was observed for about half an hour and did not appear to be moving.

AIR BATTLE WITH UFO'S OVER FINLAND. According to 'UFO Roundup. Jan 5th' (Editor Joseph Trainor), a Finnish F18 intercepted three discoid UFO's, while patrolling on the border with Russia. When the pilot attempted to intercept the discs, the 'glowing orange objects' veered sharply to the northwest. When the F18 pilot attempted to fire on one of the discs, his computer went off-line and his system for firing the 20mm cannons also went down. The glowing objects then flew off to the east at high speed (at Mach 4 or 5).

THE MIR SPACE STATION will now stay in orbit for another three years. The Cosmonaut Alexander Volkov told us recently that the MIR would return to Earth in a year's time, but now it seems that a 'benefactor' has offered to pay the cost of keeping the space station in orbit for a further three years.

THE SHEFFIELD INCIDENT 24 March 1997 continues to raise speculation that a Tornado crashed in the vicinity of the Sheffield Moors. Despite a huge 'Military' cover-up, snippets of information are surfacing which point to the conclusion that a TR3 Tornado crashed in that area, on that night. Whether it was chasing an FT at the time is unknown. *Source: Restricted*

NEXT MEETING

Will be held at the Allenton, Derby. Royal British Legion at 8pm on Tuesday 26th January. Omar Fowler will give a slide/audio presentation 'UFO's Past & Present'. Non-members welcome (£1 on the night)

Articles and opinions printed in this journal do not necessarily reflect the views of the P.R.A.